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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 3970

03/03/2022

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to agriculture; prohibiting registration of new white-tailed deer farms;

1.3 prohibiting movement of farmed white-tailed deer except for purposes of slaughter;

1.4 prohibiting importation of white-tailed deer from Cervidae farms; appropriating

1.5 money for a voluntary herd buyout program for participating white-tailed deer

1.6 farmers; requiring a report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155,

1.7 subdivisions 10, 12; Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 35.155,

1.8 subdivision 11.

1.9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.10 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

1.11 Subd. 10. **Mandatory registration.** (a) A person may not possess live Cervidae in

1.12 Minnesota unless the person is registered with the Board of Animal Health and meets all

1.13 the requirements for farmed Cervidae under this section. A person may not possess live

1.14 white-tailed deer in Minnesota under this section after August 1, 2024. Cervidae possessed

1.15 in violation of this subdivision may be seized and destroyed by the commissioner of natural

1.16 resources.

1.17 (b) A person whose registration is revoked by the board is ineligible for future registration

1.18 under this section unless the board determines that the person has undertaken measures that

1.19 make future escapes extremely unlikely.

1.20 (c) The board must not allow new registrations under this section for possessing

1.21 white-tailed deer.

1.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 35.155, subdivision 11, is amended
2.2 to read:

2.3 Subd. 11. **Mandatory surveillance for chronic wasting disease; depopulation.** (a)
2.4 An inventory for each farmed Cervidae herd must be verified by an accredited veterinarian
2.5 and filed with the Board of Animal Health every 12 months.

2.6 (b) Movement of farmed Cervidae from any premises to another location must be reported
2.7 to the Board of Animal Health within 14 days of the movement on forms approved by the
2.8 Board of Animal Health. A person must not move farmed white-tailed deer from any premises
2.9 to another location unless the movement is directly to a location for slaughter.

2.10 (c) All animals from farmed Cervidae herds that are over 12 months of age that die or
2.11 are slaughtered must be tested for chronic wasting disease.

2.12 (d) The owner of a premises where chronic wasting disease is detected must:

2.13 (1) depopulate the premises of Cervidae after the federal indemnification process has
2.14 been completed or, if an indemnification application is not submitted, within a reasonable
2.15 time determined by the board in consultation with the commissioner of natural resources;

2.16 (2) maintain the fencing required under subdivision 4 on the premises for five years after
2.17 the date of detection; and

2.18 (3) post the fencing on the premises with biohazard signs as directed by the board.

2.19 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

2.20 Subd. 12. **Importation.** A person must not import white-tailed deer into the state from
2.21 a farmed Cervidae herd. A person must not import other Cervidae into the state from a herd
2.22 that is infected or exposed to chronic wasting disease or from a known chronic wasting
2.23 disease endemic area, as determined by the board. A person may import Cervidae other
2.24 than white-tailed deer into the state only from a herd that is not in a known chronic wasting
2.25 disease endemic area, as determined by the board, and the herd has been subject to a state
2.26 or provincial approved chronic wasting disease monitoring program for at least three years.
2.27 Cervidae imported in violation of this section may be seized and destroyed by the
2.28 commissioner of natural resources.

3.1 Sec. 4. **VOLUNTARY WHITE-TAILED DEER HERD BUYOUT;**
3.2 **APPROPRIATION.**

3.3 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund to the Board of Animal
3.4 Health to offer a herd buyout payment to the owner of each deer herd registered under
3.5 Minnesota Statutes, section 35.155. The board must pay \$..... per animal, including fawns,
3.6 to each owner who accepts the buyout offered under this section by March 1, 2023, and an
3.7 additional \$..... per animal, including fawns, to each owner who accepts the buyout offered
3.8 under this section by October 1, 2022. The board must not enter into a herd buyout contract
3.9 under this section after March 1, 2023. Deer covered by a buyout under this section must
3.10 be disposed of as determined by the board. A participating owner must sign a contract with
3.11 the board certifying that the owner will not have or allow any wild or farmed white-tailed
3.12 deer to be located on the premises after the contract takes effect and must record a
3.13 corresponding deed restriction with the county recorder or registrar of titles. A participating
3.14 owner who violates the buyout contract must repay all money received under this section
3.15 and is subject to appropriate penalties under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 35. This is a onetime
3.16 appropriation and is available until June 30, 2023.

3.17 (b) By October 1, 2023, the Board of Animal Health shall submit a report on the buyout
3.18 program operated under this section to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
3.19 house of representatives and senate committees and divisions having jurisdiction over
3.20 environment and natural resources.